

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Favorable reconsideration of this application, as presently amended and in light of the following discussion, is respectfully requested.

Claims 23 and 24 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, as being vague and indefinite; Claims 25-28 have been allowed; Claims 3-5, 7-9 and 12-14 have been objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form; Claims 1, 2, 6, 10 and 11 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102 as being anticipated by Smith et al.; Claims 23 and 24 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102 as being anticipated by Tsujiimoto et al.; and Claims 15-22 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103 as being unpatentable over Tsujiimoto et al. in view of Smith et al. Claims 23, 24 and 29-31 have been canceled, without prejudice and new Claims 32 and 33 have been added. Thus, Claims 1-22, 25-28, 32 and 33 remain active.

Considering first then the rejection of Claims 23 and 24 under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, as being vague and indefinite, it is to be noted that such claims have been cancelled and new Claims 32 and 33 have been added in their place for closer compliance with U.S. patent practice and procedure.

The Examiner's indication of allowance of Claims 25-29 and the objection to Claims 3-5, 7-9 and 12-14 as being dependent upon a rejected base claim but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form is hereby acknowledged and is sincerely appreciated.

Considering next then the rejection of Claims 1, 2, 6, 10 and 11 under 35 U.S.C. § 102 as being anticipated by Smith et al., it is to be noted that Smith et al. illustrates in Figure 8 thereof that a drive shaft body and a driven body are deflectable from longitudinal axial alignment relative to a hollow core nest 18 through the angles shown in such figure. The structure therefore permits a combination of radial and longitudinal axial movement of the drive shaft. It is to be noted, however, that the hollow core 18 has only partial

engagement with the driven member body 20 and thus does not teach or disclose a plurality of grip portions forming notches or a grip force acting unit configured to cause a grip force for gripping a shaft by movement of a plurality of grip portions in a radial direction toward the shaft, as presently claimed in Claim 1. In addition, it is submitted in the limitation of Claim 9 that the grip force acting unit is configured to fasten the grip portion from around substantially an entire periphery of the grip portion. In other words, no gripping action of the type presently claimed appears in Smith et al. and such reference instead merely wishes to accommodate misalignment longitudinally and axially of the first and second shafts shown therein. Accordingly, it is submitted that Claim 9 and all claims dependent from Claim 1 therefore clearly patentably define over Smith et al. as well as the remaining references of record.

Next considering then the rejection of Claims 23 and 24 under 35 U.S.C. § 102 as being anticipated by Tsujimoto et al., it is noted that Claims 23 and 24 have been cancelled.

Considering next then the rejection of Claims 15-22 under 35 U.S.C. § 103 as being unpatentable over Tsujimoto et al. in view of Smith et al., it is noted that Claim 15 also includes the limitation that the grip force acting unit comprises a clamp member configured to fasten the grip portion from around substantially an entire outer periphery of the grip portion and that the grip portion has a plurality of split group portions forming notches with a length parallel with an axial direction of the output shaft. Thus, Claim 15 claims limitations having no teaching or disclosure in Smith et al. or Tsujimoto et al. or any possible combination of the same. It is further submitted that due to the different structure and functioning of the structure of Smith et al. as compared with that shown in Tsujimoto et al., Smith et al. would not be obviously combinable with Tsujimoto et al. and, even if so combined, would not result in Applicants' claimed invention and instead would only teach a

coupling member of the type shown in Smith et al. as described in further detail in connection with the rejection of Claim 1 noted above.

New Claims 32 and 33 have been added so as to substitute for Claims 23 and 24, respectively. Claim 32 claims an image forming apparatus according to Claim 15 as including a process cartridge with includes a photosensitive member which is integrally assembled with at least one of a charging device, a developing device, and a cleaning device for cleaning a surface of the photosensitive member wherein the photosensitive member is attachable to and detachable from the image formation apparatus when the rotating member supporting shaft is still attached to the image forming apparatus. Claim 33 claims the image forming apparatus according to Claim 15 wherein the rotating member comprises a belt unit which includes a belt, a belt supporting member configured to support the belt so as to allow conveyance of the belt, a rotating member supporting shaft configured to support the rotating member and an output shaft of a motor configured to rotate the rotating member supporting shaft. Insofar as Tsujimoto et al. fails to teach or disclose the above-emphasized limitations, it is submitted that Claims 32 and 33 also merit indication of allowability.

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In view of the foregoing, an early and favorable Office Action is believed to be in order and the same is hereby respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

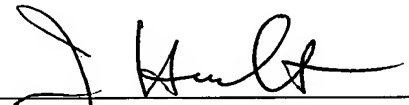
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